

REMARKS

In an election/restriction requirement dated October 1, 2003, the Examiner required a restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between six allegedly distinct groups. In response to this election/restriction, Applicants elected Group I, directed to claims 1-7, 47-64, 70-85, and 98-101. In a supplemental election/restriction requirement dated January 13, 2004, the Examiner now requires election between the previously elected claims 1-7, 47-64, 70-85, and 98-101. In particular, the Examiner requires election between claims 1-7 believed to be directed to the species of Fig. 2A; claims 47-64 believed to be directed to the embodiment of Fig. 9; claims 70-85 believed to be directed to the embodiment of Fig. 5; and claims 98-101 believed to be directed to the embodiment of Fig. 26.

Applicants hereby elect to prosecute a species of the invention covered by claims 1-7. We believe that claims 1-7 are directed to the embodiment of the invention shown in at least Figs. 6A and 6B. Of claims 1-7, Applicants submit that at least claims 1 and 2 are generic to other embodiments of the invention (i.e., Fig. 2A). Accordingly, Applicants request examination of the species of Figs. 6A and 6B.

Nonelected claims 8-119 have been canceled, and claims 120-163 have been added. New claims 120-163 are directed to the elected embodiment of Figs. 6A and 6B. The new claims are fully supported by the originally filed application and thus do not introduce new matter into the application. Accordingly, Applicants request examination of claims 1-7 and 120-163.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.604(b), Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office that pending claims 158-163 are identical copies of claims 1, 2, 7,

10, 11, and 14 of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0138086 filed on May 20, 2002 to Sixto et al.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment that is not otherwise provided with the filing, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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